

**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Fire Engineering Division**

P.O. Box 944246

SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460

Website: www.fire.ca.gov

(916) 445-8370

(916) 445-8458 FAX



FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**MEETING ACCOUNT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2002**

Committee Goal: To advise the State Fire Marshal on proposed regulations and technical issues by providing views and comments from members of industry, the public, and the fire service.

Meeting Attendees:

Mike Richwine, Division Chief, Chair
Diane Arend, Vice-Chair, SFM Building Materials Listing Program Coordinator
Pat Sanchez, Supervising Deputy
John Guhl, SFM Technical Assistant
Kim Kirkpatrick, SFM Building Materials Listing Program
Darcell Hermann, SFM Program Assistant
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company
Brian Heyman, Division of the State Architect
Mike Novotny, OSHPD
Rick Cortina, Wheelock, Inc.
Jon Kapis, Rolf Jensen and Associates

Members Absent:

Art Arlow, Fire Alarm Consultant
Arnold Cairns, Fire Alarm Consultant
Scott Corrin, UC Riverside/So. Cal FPO
Howard Hopper, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Bill Hopple, Simplex Grinnell
Michael Reeser, Santa Rosa Fire Equipment Serv.
Patrick Ward, Schirmer Engineering

Guests:

Nancy Wolfe, Assistant State Fire Marshal

Opening Remarks:

Division Chief, Mike Richwine called the meeting to order at 9:40 am at the SFM's Headquarters conference room in Sacramento.

Chief Richwine introduced himself and welcomed the committee and stated that he looks forward to working with all the committee members on addressing issues important to the fire service and industry regarding fire alarm systems. Approval of previous minutes was delayed pending the vote from a full quorum.

Chief Richwine asked for clarification on a prior meeting proposal regarding the posting of technical issues and advisories relating to fire alarm and other systems on the SFM web site. Discussion of the process and the impact it would have on time, the web page and the BML Listings was tabled until the next meeting to be brought up as new business.

Code Interpretations:

Chief Richwine clarified comments from the last meeting minutes relative to code interpretations. He stated although SFM may solicit input from the industry as the need arises, no commitment was made to use members of the advisory committee as consultants or selected interested parties on fire alarm code interpretations. In addition, no commitment was made to any type of process where the SFM would send out drafts prior to issuing code interpretations. Chief Richwine stated that the advisory committees are to be kept in the framework of advisory and that any other precedent SFM might set in process would need to include all of the industry.

Specifically with regards to the 617.02 issue, CAFAA will be resubmitting a request for a formal interpretation to be sent back to the code interpretation committee. SFM plans to begin a new process by having a division chief sit on the committee thus allowing for a more uniform outcome.

Mike Novotny stated the importance of a strong dialogue between state agencies that enforce SFM regulations and the SFM code interpretation staff. He suggested formalizing a dialogue between OSHPD, DSA, ACD or other agencies that have a stake in code interpretation with communication being the key.

Nancy Wolfe stated that the lack of a division manager/division chief component on the committee as liaison has resulted in a loss of communication both in the industry and other agencies. To alleviate the problem, Joe Garcia will be attending meetings and the SFM plans to have state agencies and stakeholders involved in the process as well.

Patient Room Corridor Lamps:

Mike Novotny brought up the topic of problems being experienced in the hospital industry throughout the state due to inconsistency in interpretation and enforcement. Patient room smoke detector imaging and original intent verses fire alarm systems has become a big issue.

Shane Clary suggested the use of "CANS and PINS" as a resource for clarification. Mike Novotny stated a consistent statement within code would be helpful and suggested SFM do a policy intent notice on the nurse call system and lamp color functions. Nancy Wolfe responded by stating that it must first come from OSHPD or as a regulation and then the SFM would comment on it.

The committee discussed the definition of visibility and the guidelines for the 90 feet visibility standard for lamps. Although official motion was not taken due to lack of full quorum, Mike Richwine said the issue clearly should go back to OSHPD for a regulation change proposal. The occupancy is regulated by OSHPD and is not part of the fire alarm.

Mike Novotny asked the committee for input on simple bullet points for a consistent application he could take back to OSHPD.

In the interim of an OSHPD regulation change, SFM will look at a code interpretation if one is requested. Jon Kapis suggested the use of a CAN or PIN to identify acceptable means along with Nancy Wolfe's suggestion that industry should encourage OSHPD director to support the idea.

The committee agreed that the code acknowledges that a detector must be there but not set up as part of the fire alarm system. From that point it becomes a gray area of how the industry gets it done.

Action Item:

Mike Novotny will carry the information back to OSHPD with a formal request to come at a later date.

Fire Alarm Plan Review Guide and Check List:

Shane Clary said there was no movement. Item was tabled until the next meeting. Jon Kapis requests to be on the plan review guide committee.

Action Item:

Add bullet point for membership to get a vote on adding Jon Kapis to the plan review guide committee.

Update of NICET Qualifications & Other States:

John Guhl reported that the request to put the requirements in the body of the code with regards to design, maintenance and installation was rejected by the standards council. It will be referred back to the 1999 Edition. The NFPA Standards Council Policy considers NICET a proprietary product and service

The committee discussed NICET certification and the desire or interest to include it in Title 19 regulations. Chief Richwine requested the issue be tabled until a full quorum is present. If the committee desires to move forward in a regulatory fashion, then cost and fiscal impact would need to be explored.

Regulations Report:

Although there are no regulation packages in process that pertain to this committee, Rodney Slaughter did mention SFM is currently working on the high power rocket fee structure package and the portable fire extinguisher regulations one year versus six year teardown package. In addition, a regulatory package will be put together to change the reference to the fire code in Title 19 to the 2000 Fire Code. Title 19 will also be updated removing all referenced to E occupancies making them R2 and R6.

Action Item:

Put on as new business for Rodney Slaughter to give a regulatory update in addition to giving a presentation on the regulatory process.

Replacing System Control Units:

NEMA is requesting verbiage to present to the committee. Shane Clary reports that Bill Hopple's question of concern is: when changing out a fire alarm control panel and compatibility is not an issue, does the rest of the system then need to be brought up to current code?

Jon Kapis responded by saying no by referring to a code interpretation in the 2000 code cycle submitted by RJA. It is not required to bring the system up to current code for a service issue or a strobe upgrade relative to high-rise. It is a maintenance issue, not a construction issue. It is a service issue, a survivability issue. There is precedent in regulations for dealing with compatibility issues that might apply to OSHPD. This item was tabled for further discussion.

BML:

Diane Arend introduced Kim Kirkpatrick as new to the BML Program. Current turn-around time in the program is 30 to 90 days. The problem with test data not being included in an original application package is decreasing and additional U.L. test data is being sent upon request. Applications for name changes have increased. Due to work hours involved in the name change process, SFM will be doing analysis for Non Technical Revision fee increase. The previous discussion on collecting data from SFM "web-site" hits was touched on. SFM IT people are still Researching the idea/suggestion.

Mike Richwine will be requesting that each of the advisory committees have some linkage if not membership on the NFIRS/CFIRS committees.

Set Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting was tentatively set for 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 22, 2003 at the State Fire Marshal's headquarters conference room in Sacramento. Additional meetings tentatively were set for April 30, July 30 and October 29, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Minutes Developed by:
DARCELL HERMANN
Office of the State Fire Marshal
PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460